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For Immediate Release: January 24, 2006
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Beverly Fire Started by Stovetop Candle-making

Beverly Fire Chief Richard F. Pierce and State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan announced that their joint investigation has determined the cause of Sunday's fire at 20 Folly Pond Road was unattended candle-making. Old candles were being melted down for making new candles, and were left burning unattended on a stovetop.

Coan said, "Cooking, especially when heating something as combustible as wax, and candles, should never be left burning unattended. Candles work by heating the wax, creating vapors that burn."

Fire Chief Pierce said, "We were fortunate no one was injured in this fire, because there was a long delay before the first 911 call was made to the fire department." He added, "Apartment dwellers should not assume that the fire alarm system will automatically notify the fire department as well as all of the occupants."

The fire was jointly investigated by the Beverly Fire Department, Beverly Police Department and State Police fire investigators assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

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